

no amendments to the bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Madam President, colleagues, LB 240 was introduced at the request of the Department of Labor to bring existing law into compliance with federal regulations. Federal law provides that, or requires that states do implement and utilize systems to identify their dislocated workers who are likely to experience reemployment difficulty, thereby exhausting their unemployment insurance benefits. Once these workers are identified, they are required to participate in a reemployment service in order to receive unemployment insurance benefits. The bill would permit such an unemployed individual to receive unemployment benefits only if that individual has participated in a reemployment service as directed by the Commissioner of Insurance. The federal law that this is under is Public Law 103-152 which requires the state as a condition for receiving Title III grants to implement and utilize the system of early identification of these dislocated workers. I would request that the body advance LB 240.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Any discussion? Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members, if I could ask Senator Abboud a question or two.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Abboud, does this language then allow the commissioner to deny someone benefits for failure to participate?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, I would assume so.

SENATOR HALL: What's the criteria that's going to be used by the department to determine whether someone has participated or whether or not, as it states in sub(b), there is a justifiable cause for the claimants failure to participate in such services?

SENATOR ABOUD: Well the law, the federal law that this is under requires that they participate in some sort of retraining